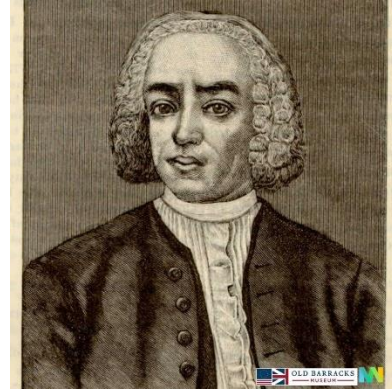


Dr. Bodo Otto

Dr. Bodo Otto is the fifth Great Grandfather of Chapter VP and State President, Charlie Morgan. He was the son of Christopher Otto and Maria Magdalena Nienecken, and was born in Germany about 1711. There is evidence that he was christened in the royal chapel on July 20, 1711. The official record states: "Otto: on July 20th 1711, Otto, son of Christopher Otto, with the name of Bodo was baptized. He was educated as a surgeon under the authority of the German government at the University of Gottingen, Germany. He was a member of the College of Surgeons at Hildesheim, and Luneburg, and had charge of all the prisoners and invalids at the Fortress Kalkberg (Luneburg, Germany).

Dr. Otto married three times. His first wife was Anna Elizabeth Sauken; they were married in 1737 in Germany. She died in Germany in 1738. They had one daughter, Maria Elizabeth. His second wife was Catharina Dorathea Dahnken. They married on May 21, 1742 in Germany and had 4 children: Frederick Christopher, Dorathea Sophia, Bodo Jr., and John Augustus. Dr. Otto's wife, Catharina, died in 1765 and is buried in Friesburg in Salem County New Jersey. Dr. Otto's third wife was Maria Margaretha Paris. They were married September 12, 1766 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at St. Michael's Lutheran Church.



Dr. Bodo Otto

Dr. Otto and his family arrived in Philadelphia October 7 1755, on the Neptune, which left from Rotterdam, and passed through Gosport, England on its way to America. Upon arriving in Philadelphia, Dr. Otto established his medical practice. He resided in Philadelphia and Germantown, PA. He then resided in the Cohansey district in south Jersey. He apparently returned to Philadelphia for a while before moving to Reading PA. Dr. Otto was one of the first skilled physicians and surgeons in the city of Reading, PA. He served as a member of the Committee of Berks County at the Pennsylvania Provincial Conference June 18 1775, and began his military career in 1776.

In July of that year, He was named Surgeon of the battalion of Flying Camp Troops by the Committee of Berks County PA. He was present at the Battle of Long Island in August 1776 and lost all of his medical supplies and equipment. Shortly thereafter there was a reorganization of the medical section of the Army and he was transferred from field duty to hospital duty as one of the surgeons for the Flying Camp hospitals. Initially he was in charge of the hospital known as the Philadelphia Bettering House – located between 11th and 12th and Spruce St. and Pine St., and was a Senior Surgeon by this time. In February 1777, he was sent to Trenton to inoculate the troops against Smallpox. He apparently stayed in Trenton at the hospital in the Old Stone Barracks. In December, 1777, he was either still in Trenton closing up the hospital or already transferred to a new hospital in Bethlehem. The Trenton hospital had been ordered closed in Oct 1777, but patients were still listed there in a report dated Nov 24, 1777. The Bethlehem hospital was known as "Moravian Fulling Mill Hospital". Dr. Otto remained there until going to Valley Forge. In early 1778, the Yellow Springs Hospital was established and was the principal hospital for the Valley Forge encampment. It is unclear when Dr. Otto was transferred to this hospital. According to one journal he was still in Bethlehem in early April 1778, but was at Yellow Springs by mid-June 1778. The Washington Hall was built at Yellow Springs and Dr. Otto was

ordered to take charge of the new hospital, which was full of the sick from Valley Forge even before construction was completed. While at Yellow Springs Hospital, Dr. Otto was elected a Hospital Physician and Surgeon by Congress as part of reorganization of the Hospital Department. In September 1781, a Committee of Congress decreed that Yellow Springs Hospital be closed and patients sent to Philadelphia. More than likely Bodo Otto moved with them as he had been ordered to "hold himself in readiness to join any other hospital where his services may be most wanted." A reduction in the number of officers occurred In February 1782, and Dr. Otto was discharged from the Army and re-established his medical practice in Philadelphia on 5th Street in mid Feb 1782.

Dr. Otto remained in Philadelphia for a short time before moving to Baltimore MD. He was practicing medicine back in Reading around 1784. He died in Reading in 1789, and is buried in the cemetery of the Trinity Lutheran Church at 6th and Washington Streets in Reading PA.